IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of controlling an image forming apparatus comprising the steps of:

displaying an operation status message area on a first part of a touch panel display;

displaying a document counting area configured to show a number of sheets set and a number of documents produced on a second part of the touch panel display;

displaying an input document handling area on a third part of the touch panel display; and

allowing selection of at least one kind of input document for image forming from the input document handling area.

Claim 2 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

displaying an output document handling area on a fourth part of the touch panel display; and

allowing selection of at least one of a sort mode, a stack mode, a staple mode, and a punch mode from the output document handling area.

Claim 3 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 2, further comprising the steps of:

displaying at least one image forming function tab; and allowing selection of a program key to register the at least one image forming function tab.

Claim 4 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a programmable registered image forming function tab area on a fifth part of the touch panel display; and allowing selection of at least one registered image forming

function tab.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): ~~The method as claimed in claim 4~~

A method of controlling an image forming apparatus comprising the steps of:

displaying an operation status message area on a first part of a touch panel display;

displaying a document counting area configured to show a number of sheets set and a number of documents produced on a second part of the touch panel display;

displaying an input document handling area on a third part of the touch panel display; and

allowing selection of at least one kind of document for image forming from the input document handling area;

displaying an output document handling area on a fourth part of the touch panel display;

allowing selection of at least one of a sort mode, a stack mode, a staple mode, and a punch mode from the output document handling area;

displaying at least one image forming function tab; and allowing selection of a program key to register the at least one image forming function tab; and

displaying a programmable registered image forming function tab area on a fifth part of the touch panel display; and allowing selection of at least one registered image forming function tab,

wherein at least the input document handling area, the operation status message area, the document counting area, the output document handling area, and the programmable registered image forming function tab area are simultaneously maintained on the touch panel display while a selection is made via the touch panel display.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[1]] 3, wherein the step of displaying an image forming function tab comprises: displaying at most ten image forming function tabs.

Claim 7 (Original): A method of controlling an image forming apparatus comprising the steps of:

displaying an operation status message area on a first part of a touch panel display;

displaying a document counting area configured to show a number of sheets set and a number of documents produced on a second part of the touch panel display;

displaying an input document handling area on a third part of the touch panel display; and

allowing selection of at least one kind of input document for image forming.

Claim 8 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

displaying an output document handling area on a fourth part of the touch panel display; and allowing selection of at least one of a sort mode, a stack made, a staple mode, and a punch made from the output document handling area.

Claim 9 (Original): The method as claimed in claim 8, further comprising the steps of:

displaying at least one image forming function tab; and allowing selection of a program key to register the at least one image forming function tab.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[4]] 3, further comprising the steps of:

displaying a programmable registered image forming function tab area on a fifth part

of the touch panel display; and allowing selection of an automatic paper selecting function.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~The method as claimed in claim 10, further~~

~~comprising the step of:~~

A method of controlling an image forming apparatus comprising the steps of:

displaying an operation status message area on a first part of a touch panel display;

displaying a document counting area configured to show a number of sheets set and a

number of documents produced on a second part of the touch panel display;

displaying an input document handling area on a third part of the touch panel display;

and

allowing selection of at least one kind of document for image forming from the input

document handling area;

displaying an output document handling area on a fourth part of the touch panel

display;

allowing selection of at least one of a sort mode, a stack mode, a staple mode, and a

punch mode from the output document handling area;

displaying at least one image forming function tab; and allowing selection of a

program key to register the at least one image forming function tab;

displaying a programmable registered image forming function tab area on a fifth part

of the touch panel display; and allowing selection of at least one registered image forming

function tab; and

allowing operation in one of the five parts of the touch panel display,

wherein at least the input document handling area, the operation status message area,

counting area, the output document handling area, programmable registered image forming

function tab area are simultaneously maintained on the touch panel display while a selection

is made via the touch panel display.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The method as claimed in claim [[7]] 9, wherein the

step of displaying an image forming function tab comprises: displaying at most ten image

forming function tabs.

Claim 13 (Original): An operation and display section of an image forming apparatus,

the operation and display section having a touch screen panel comprising:

a first touch screen panel subsection configured to control input processing of a

document;

a second touch screen panel subsection configured to control copy processing of the

document; and

a third touch screen panel subsection configured to control output processing of the

document.

Claim 14 (Original): The operation and display section as claimed in claim 13,

wherein each touch screen panel subsection includes function keys that are configured to be

selected to control processing in each subsection, and only information displayed in one of

the touch screen panel subsections that includes selected function keys changes when the

selected function keys are selected, while the display of the subsections not including the

selected function keys are maintained on the touch screen panel.

Claim 15 (Original): The operation and display section as claimed in claim 13,

wherein the first touch screen panel subsection includes input display keys configured to set

document reading conditions.

Claim 16 (Original): The operation and display section as claimed in claim 13, wherein the third touch screen panel subsection includes output display keys configured to enable selection of an least one of a sort mode, a stack mode, a staple mode, and a punch mode.

Claim 17 (Original): The operation and display section as claimed in claim 13, wherein the first, second, and third touch screen panel subsection are horizontally arranged side by side on the touch screen panel in first, second and third touch screen panel order.

Claim 18 (Original): The operation and display section as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second touch screen panel subsection has a greater area than each of the first and third touch screen panel subsections.

Claim 19 (New): A method of controlling an image forming apparatus comprising:

simultaneously maintaining at least an input document handling area, an operation status message area, a document counting area, an output document handling area, and a programmable registered image forming function tab area on a touch panel display while a selection is made via the touch panel display.

Claim 20 (New): The method accordingly to claim 19, further comprising:

displaying an operation status message in the operation status message area;

displaying a number of sheets set and a number of documents produced in the document counting area; and

allowing selection of at least one kind of input document for image forming in the

input document handling area.

Claim 21 (New): The method according to claim 20, further comprising:

allowing selection of at least one of a sort mode, a stack mode, a staple mode, and a

punch mode in the output document handling area.

Claim 22 (New): The method according to claim 21, further comprising:

displaying at least one image forming function tab in the programmable registered

image forming function tab area;

allowing selection of a program key to register the at least one image forming

function tab; and

allowing selection of at least one registered image forming function tab.

Claim 23 (New): The method according to claim 22, further comprising:

wherein displaying at least one image forming function tab comprises displaying at

most ten image forming function tabs.

Claim 24 (New): A method of controlling an image forming apparatus comprising:

simultaneously maintaining at least an input document handling area, an operation

status message area, a document counting area, an output document handling area, and a

programmable registered image forming function tab area on a touch panel display while a

selection is made via the touch panel display; and

allowing operation in one of five parts of the touch panel display.

Claim 25 (New): The method accordingly to claim 24, further comprising:

displaying an operation status message in the operation status message area;

displaying a number of sheets set and a number of documents produced in the

document counting area; and

allowing selection of at least one kind of input document for image forming in the

input document handling area.

Claim 26 (New): The method according to claim 25, further comprising:

allowing selection of at least one of a sort mode, a stack mode, a staple mode, and a

punch mode in the output document handling area.

Claim 27 (New): The method according to claim 26, further comprising:

displaying at least one image forming function tab in the programmable registered

image forming function tab area;

allowing selection of a program key to register the at least one image forming

function tab; and

allowing selection of at least one registered image forming function tab.

Claim 28 (New): The method according to claim 27, further comprising:

wherein displaying at least one image forming function tab comprises displaying at

most ten image forming function tabs.

Claim 29 (New): An image forming apparatus including an operation and display

section, the operation and display section having a touch screen panel comprising:

an input document handling area;

an operation status message area;

a document counting area;

an output document handling area; and

a programmable registered image forming function tab area,

wherein each area is simultaneously maintained on the touch panel display while a

selection is made via the touch panel display.

Claim 30 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 29, wherein

the input document handling area is configured to allow selection of at least one kind

of input document for image forming,

the operation status message area is configured to display an operation status

message, and

the document counting area is configured to display a number of sheets set and a

number of documents produced.

Claim 31 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 30, wherein

the output document handling area is configured to allow selection of at least one of a

sort mode, a stack mode, a staple mode, and a punch mode.

Claim 32 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 31, wherein

a programmable registered image forming function tab area is configured to display at

least one image forming function tab, allow selection of a program key to register the at least

one image forming function tab and allow selection of the at least one registered image

forming function tab.

Claim 33 (New): An image forming apparatus including an operation and display section, the operation and display section having a touch screen panel including comprising:

an input document handling area;

an operation status message area;

a document counting area;

an output document handling area; and

a programmable registered image forming function tab area,

wherein each area is simultaneously maintained on the touch panel display while a selection is made via the touch panel display and an operation is allowed in one of the areas of the touch panel display.

Claim 34 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 33, wherein

the input document handling area is configured to allow selection of at least one kind of input document for image forming,

the operation status message area is configured to display an operation status message, and

the document counting area is configured to display a number of sheets set and a number of documents produced.

Claim 35 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 34, wherein

the output document handling area is configured to allow selection of at least one of a sort mode, a stack mode, a staple mode, and a punch mode.

Claim 36 (New): The image forming apparatus according to claim 35, wherein

a programmable registered image forming function tab area is configured to display at

least one image forming function tab, allow selection of a program key to register the at least

one image forming function tab and allow selection of the at least one registered image

forming function tab.